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Oxford Journal

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Thursday, January 23 - Wednesday, January 29, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

WE WILL KEEP FIGHTING ON

Cowley pool group's vow after council announces site will be sold for housing

A GROUP of Oxford residents who have been campaigning to keep Temple Cowley Pools open have said they will not give up, despite the city council announcing that the site will be sold for housing.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Save Temple Cowley Pools has been fighting for the past four years to keep the facility open after Blackbird Leys pool has been completed and opened.

The 1.31-acre site has been identified for housing development by the council, with the expectation that at least half of the units would be affordable homes.

It comes after six petitions have been given to the city council over the past four years to save Temple Cowley Pools, the first of which attracting over 12,000 signatures.

A seventh is scheduled to go to the council next month.

Nigel Gibson, from Save Temple Cowley Pools, said: "This changes absolutely nothing. We always knew that this was the council's intention, so it's not unexpected.

"We've got our seventh petition going into the next council meeting in early February, which is asking the council to work with the campaign to see how we can keep Temple Cowley Pools going.

"The petition itself being number seven shows yet again the huge strength of feeling among the public to keep it open.

"We will carry on for as long as we can to keep the facility open for the good of the people in Oxford and beyond."

Cllr Mike Rowley, board member for leisure services, said: "The site is being advertised now to ensure that there is enough time for the consultation and any planning issues that arise to be sorted out.

"The sale process has been designed to ensure that the council gets the best value for the people of Oxford, as well as ensuring a well-designed scheme.

"We want the site to provide affordable housing and we will be working with the developer who purchases the site to ensure that this happens."

Construction is currently being carried out on the £9.23m development in Blackbird Leys, which will have an eight-lane, 25 metre pool with a moveable floor, soft play area and new changing facilities.

It will adjoin the existing Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, and is being built to replace Temple Cowley Pools and the small Blackbird Leys pool.

Wish granted for young cyclist
See page 3

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Girl gets £5million payout after errors

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl from Oxfordshire has been awarded a settlement worth approximately £5million, after she was left severely disabled following errors made by two hospitals at the time of her birth.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Louisa Ravouvou suffered severe injuries when hospital staff failed to respond to a bleed on her brain when she was in the womb, and didn't give her a necessary blood transfusion shortly after her birth in October 2003.

In May 2012, the Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Trust and the Great Western Hospitals (GWH) NHS Foundation Trust admitted jointly a breach of care, and the settlement was approved on Friday.

Sue Jarvis, who acted for Louisa in the case, said: "This settlement means that Louisa will receive a package for the rest of her life, valued at approximately £5million.

"Louisa's family has already moved to specialist accommodation, which will be adapted to meet her needs and a professional care regime has been appointed.

"Although Louisa is severely disabled she has a delightful disposition and potential to be able to indicate her preferences, and her specialist accommodation and care team will try and improve her quality of life as much as possible.

"Louisa has a much reduced life expectancy but the award will ensure that during her shortened life she receives the care and aids and appliances which she needs."

A spokesperson for OUH NHS Trust said: "The trust offered its sincere apologies for the identified failures in care leading up to Ms Ravouvou's delivery in 2003.

"The Trust has made an admission of liability and has agreed a settlement with Ms Ravouvou and her family, which we hope will provide assistance for her future and assist Ms Ravouvou in reaching her full potential."

A statement by GWH NHS Foundation Trust said: "The Trust has admitted liability and apologised for failings in care prior to Ms Ravouvou's delivery in 2003.

"We hope that the terms of settlement approved by the High Court will assist Ms Ravouvou in the future."

MP praises 'really important work' of young people's charity

OXFORD East MP Andrew Smith visited local charity One-Eighty on Friday, to see the work they do with young people who are having difficulties with their social, school and family circumstances.

Many of those helped by the charity are of school-age, and live in children's homes or with foster parents.

Mr Smith said: "This is really important work, helping young people to find their way forward and to get their lives back on track, building self-esteem and re-engaging with school and social life in a constructive way.

"It is very heartening to learn of the great success-rate of the programmes that One-Eighty provide."

Johnny Latham, director of interventions at the charity, said: "This year One-Eighty was shortlisted for Oxfordshire Charity of the Year and as a result Andrew Smith asked to visit our office in Northway.

"It was really encouraging to see how engaged Andrew was with the plight of service providers in the charity sector.

"After seeing how effective and important we are to the children of Oxfordshire, Andrew offered to support us with letters of recommendation to potential trusts and funders who would perhaps ignore smaller charities like ours."

• Andrew Smith meets with One-Eighty's director of interventions Johnny Latham and director of group work Susie Besant

Senior environmental figures set to discuss 'action on energy' at Oxford summit

ENVIRONMENTAL leaders from across the country are set to meet in Oxford tomorrow afternoon to discuss building a sustainable future for the county.

The 'OxFutures: Action on Energy' event will talk about attracting £400million of investment into low carbon innovation, energy reduction and renewable projects by 2020.

Jonathon Porritt CBE, Leo Johnson, Catherine Mason CBE, Dr Barbara Hammond and Tim Stephenson OBE will be among the panel of speakers. They will be leading a call to action from business, communities and investors in Oxfordshire.

Mr Porritt CBE, co-founder of Forum for the Future, will share his positive vision of a new energy future with communities at its heart.

Meanwhile, Dr Hammond, CEO of the Low Carbon Hub, will outline the energy challenge for Oxfordshire and talk through the potential for low carbon innovation to drive the local economy. OxFutures is a partnership between Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council with local social enterprise the Low Carbon Hub. The summit takes place at the Said Business School. from 2.30pm.

News Bites

Fire duo treated

A CHIP pan fire broke out in an Oxford flat last Saturday night.

Fire crews were called to a kitchen fire at a third floor flat in Crauford Road at 7.09pm.

The chip pan was believed to have been left unattended, while a male and a female were treated for smoke inhalation.

R.I.P. Sir Chris

SIR Chris Chataway, best known for helping pace Sir Roger Bannister to breaking the four-minute mile at Iffley Road in 1954, has died at the age of 82.

Chataway, who was named the first-ever BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 1954, took an honours degree in politics, philosophy and economics at Magdalen College.

The 82-year-old had been suffering from cancer for two and a half years.

Pair arrested

TWO men have been arrested and are in custody following the sexual assault of a 19-year-old woman in Oxford on Sunday.

The incident took place at around 2.30am near the canal off of Hythe Bridge Street, when the victim was sexually assaulted by two males.

Investigating officer Det Sgt Simon Hannam said: "We would urge anyone who was out in this part of Oxford and particularly anyone around The Bridge nightclub in the early hours to please contact us on 101."

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New bike a dream come true for brave Judith, 10

AN OXFORD girl who doctors predicted would never walk as achieved her dream of riding a bike.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Judith Stickings, 10, suffered complications at birth that left her with cerebral palsy and developmental delays, but has been determined to ride a bike on her own.

And following a successful appeal by national charity Caudwell Children, Judith has now received a specialist therapy tricycle.

Judith's mother Gillian described her delight at seeing her daughter ride a bike, and said: "To see her come this far in just 10 years is incredible.

"Being told by doctors that your child will probably never walk is heart-breaking, so we are very proud of her.

"Her condition means she is very weak on her right-hand side, and this makes it very hard for her to get around.

"So when we heard what a tricycle could do for her and how Caudwell Children could help us get it, we were thrilled.

"It is strange asking people for money, you feel like you're asking cap in hand.

"But after the appeal, we were getting lots of donations through Just Giving from kind strangers. It was very moving and now Judith has her trike.

"We've had an amazing experience with Caudwell Children."

Trudi Beswick, CEO of Caudwell Children, said: "Seeing success stories like this are heartwarming.

"Therapy tricycles can make an immeasurable difference to the lives and development of children with disabilities as it gives them their freedom and the chance to develop.

"However we work every day to help more children like Judith receive the vital equipment they need, and we therefore need more money and support to make more dreams come true."

Judith is able to try out her tricycle around the streets where she lives and has been showing off to the neighbours, many of whom were pivotal in the fundraising efforts.

For more information about the charity, go to www.caudwellchidren.com.

• *Judith Stickings tries out her new tricycle*

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Comedians have 'psycho' traits

COMEDIANS show high levels of psychotic personality traits, according to researchers from the University of Oxford and Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

They suggested that an unusual personality structure could be key to making other people laugh, focusing on the belief that creativity is associated with madness.

The research was published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, with 523 comedians taking part in the study.

All of the comedians were asked to complete an online questionnaire, measuring unusual experiences, distractions, social and physical pleasure, and impulsive behaviour.

It was also completed by 364 actors, who acted as a control group, and then compared with a general group of 831 people who had non-creative occupations.

Professor Gordon Claridge, of the University of Oxford's Department of Experimental Psychology, said: "The creative elements needed to produce humour are strikingly similar to those characterising the cognitive style of people with psychosis.

"Our study shows that, as creative people, comedians rate highly on the same personality traits as those regularly observed in other creative individuals.

"The traits in question are labelled 'psychotic' because they represent healthy equivalents of features such as moodiness, social introversion and the tendency to lateral thinking."

News Bites

Remembering

A SERVICE to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day will take place on Monday at Oxford Town Hall, hosted by Lord Mayor Dee Sinclair.

January 27 was declared by the United Nations as an international day for remembrance of the millions of people affected by the Holocaust, which is being marked in Oxford.

Cllr Sinclair said: "It is essential that the lessons from the Holocaust are learned by us all and remembered regularly."

Ivory haul found

A TEAM from Oxford Brookes may have uncovered one of the biggest unregulated ivory markets in Asia.

Along with the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, more than 3,300 pieces of ivory and close to 50 raw ivory elephant tusks were found openly for sale in Mong La, Burma.

It means Mong La could rank alongside markets in Bangkok, Thailand, and Guangzhou, China, long-known as centres for the illegal domestic and international ivory trade.

Sex pest arrest

A 29-YEAR-OLD man from Oxford remains in custody after being arrested on suspicion of sexual assault on a woman.

He was arrested on January 15 in connection with a sexual assault in Marston Street during the early hours of the day.

The man was also arrested on suspicion of knowingly and/or recklessly trespassing on premises with intent to commit a relevant sexual offence.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?
Contact **Jack Johnson** on **01235 516932** or jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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Officer taken to hospital after being hit by car

A POLICE Community Support Officer was taken to hospital after being run over in Headington on January 15.

At around 4.35pm, the officer approached a man who appeared to be tampering with number plates on a vehicle.

When the offender saw the officer, he got into the vehicle, a five-door, black VW Golf, and reversed at speed into him.

The PCSO received minor injuries including cuts and bruises and was treated at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The driver was a white man, around 5ft 7ins tall, in his thirties or forties with ginger hair, a ginger beard and wearing a dark jacket.

Police are now appealing for any witnesses to the incident to come forward.

Officers would like to speak to a woman, thought to be in her fifties, who walked past with her Red Setter dog.

Anyone who witnessed this incident should contact Det Sgt Maria Banks on 101.

Alternatively, get in touch with Crimestopers on 0800 555111, or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org.uk.

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Consultation launches on Merton College plan

CONSULTATION is set to begin this evening on a new proposal to develop just under 300 student residences at Merton College.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

McLaren Property and Merton College intend to submit a planning application for 294 student flats to Oxford City Council in March.

Public meetings will take place tonight between 6pm and 8pm and on Saturday between 10am and 1pm at the T.S.Eliot Theatre within Merton College.

The proposed building, off Manor Place, has been identified by the city council's adopted Sites and Housing Plan as an area which could potentially accommodate students from both the city's universities.

In total, 294 en-suite study rooms are planned for the site along with common areas, laundry rooms, cycle parking and outdoor amenity space.

The site is surrounded by listed buildings including the Grade I listed St Catherine's College.

Stuart Black from McLaren Property said: "It is very important for us to create a scheme which meets local need while respecting the rich heritage of the area and the comfort of residents neighbouring the site.

"The plan reflects the requirements of Oxford's planning policy and helps to meet the growing local need for new student accommodation in the city."

McLaren Property and Merton College previously carried out a legal challenge against site-specific planning policy set out in the city council's Sites and Housing Plan.

However, both parties withdrew legal action in December last year.

A McLaren Property spokesperson added: "McLaren and Merton College are committed to help to meet the need for new student accommodation and are committed to working with Oxford City Council within the constraints of planning policy.

"On this basis, McLaren and Merton College formally withdrew legal action."

Cllr Mark Mills, ward member for Holywell, said: "Oxford has a very tight housing supply and I think it's beneficial to increase the supply of whatever accommodation or housing is available."

New car park facility opens in Blackbird Leys

BLACKBIRD Leys has become the second estate in Oxford to benefit from new parking facilities.

Eighteen parking spaces, including disabled bays, have been provided at the junction on Blackbird Leys Road and Balfour Road.

The scheme is to Highway standards with a block paving finish and raised kerbs. New shrub beds and tree planting have also been added.

Areas that had been damaged by vehicle parking have also been reinstated as part of the city council's Great Estates Project.

Cllr Scott Seamons, board member for Housing, said: "This project has provided not only parking spaces for residents on Blackbird Leys road but also improved the quality of the external environment in this area – the main entrance to the Leys. Alongside the new parking spaces, hedges and trees have been planted and the remaining grass will be protected, the end result is much tidier.

"Through this investment we are increasing the number of purpose designed off-street parking spaces, a move welcomed by local residents and a common request in our consultations surrounding Leys Regeneration.

"We have identified a number of further areas in Blackbird Leys and across the city for additional parking, though with today's financial pressures it will take time to deliver in all these areas."

The council said the next parking facilities project will be at Monks Close in Blackbird Leys later this month.

(Left to right) Ray Harris, Martin Smith, Doug Loveridge, Andy Whittington, Oliver Hearn and Shaun Hatton and, front, Cllr Scott Seamons

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Police secure funding boost

THAMES Valley Police has been handed £1.6million in funding to improve the use of technology in the detection and investigation of crime.

Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld submitted the bids to the Home Office to help improve the service offered to victims of crime.

The successful bids will see officers equipped with mobile technology, enabling them to access key operational systems while out on patrol, as well as capture electronic witness signatures.

There will also be additional body worn video cameras and funding to create 'digital case files' which can be accessed by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Other improvements are tools to enhance the force's ability to analyse information on social media platforms and a 'Proof of Concept' Live Link facility enabling officers to give evidence remotely without having to attend court in person.

There is also more funding to establish the use of a voluntary GPS tracking of prolific and priority offenders.

Mr Stansfeld said: "With the financial cutbacks in policing, it is the advance in technology that allows us to still reduce crime in this period of austerity.

"This additional funding in innovative technology will greatly assist us in our mission to reduce crime."

Police cracking down on illegal pesticide trade

AN INITIATIVE looking into the distribution and use of illegal pesticides has now been launched across the region.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Illegal pesticides, which can lead to crop failures, have been increasingly found across the country and in Europe.

Now, Thames Valley Police wish to investigate across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamsire and Berkshire, not just because of the risks the illegal distribution can pose to the rural communities, but the links to organised crime gangs.

Under Operation Silo, police also say there is growing evidence that the activity finances other serious crimes, such as human trafficking and international terrorism.

Ch Supt Gilbert Houalla, head of Neighbourhood Policing and Partnerships said: "Our job at the moment is to investigate to what level, if any, it is happening across the Thames Valley.

"We are working closely with the industry, which is providing farmers and growers with advice to minimise the risks of buying and using illegal pesticides through the nationwide 'Watch Out' campaign.

"This type of crime is very difficult to identify and spot happening and receiving intelligence will be a vital part of our investigation, which is where members of the public and, more importantly, members of the rural and farming community and pesticide industry will come in."

People are being asked to look out for how the product looks or smells, if they have been offered a product described as the same but at a discounted rate, or if they have been sold an item because the first choice was out of stock.

The Health and Safety Executive say that a report in 2011 stated 10 per cent of pesticides used across Europe were counterfeit, with that figure now rising to 15 per cent.

Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld added: "This is a serious aspect of rural crime which I have made a priority. The illegal sale of counterfeit pesticides is a threat to all through the food chain, as well as to wildlife.

"Thames Valley Police now take all aspects of rural crime with the utmost seriousness."

No place like Joan! Pair cut care home cake

AN IFFLEY care home celebrated its first birthday on Friday, with residents enjoying a slice of cake to mark the occasion.

Joan Brown, 100, was joined by 96-year-old Joan Critchley to mark the milestone birthday, as she was given the honour of cutting the cake.

The pair were two of the first residents to move into the Sanctuary Care Home last year.

"I am well looked after here and the staff are all very kind," said Joan Brown. "They work very hard and will do anything you want. My room is so comfortable and everyone is very friendly – time goes so quickly."

Home manager Pam Harper said: "This was such a special day for our residents, their loved ones and the team here at Iffley Residential and Nursing Home.

"We have only been open a year but in that time we have not only created a home for the incredible people who live here, but truly feel part of a wonderful community. Thank you to the people of Iffley who have made us feel so welcome."

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News Bites

Kennington theft

A LARGE amount of cash was stolen in a burglary at a Kennington home on January 15.

Between 11.30am and 6.30pm, offenders entered a property in Otters Reach by smashing a rear window in the conservatory, and stole the cash after searching first floor bedrooms.

If you have any information call 101.

Take extra care

DRIVERS are being urged to be extra careful on the roads as temperatures begin to plummet.

The county council's Fire and Rescue Service's Road Safety team wants motorists to take care while driving, ensure windows are completely demisted and that items such as an ice-scraper and torch are on board.

Stopping distances on untreated icy roads are 10 times more than on dry highways while visibility can be reduced.

Nominate now

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Localtraders.com has launched the UK Trade Awards 2014 and the winners will be announced in December.

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Planetarium 'could still happen' - CEO

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

SCIENCE Oxford's CEO says there may still be an opportunity to build a planetarium, despite plans for a £35million science centre in the city being scrapped.

The Magnet was set to become the UK's first integrated Science Discovery and Innovation Centre.

However, after submitting a planning application in April last year, Science Oxford, the face of the Oxford Trust, has decided that "its ambitions for The Magnet are no longer feasible".

The development, designed by Fosters & Partners, was set to be a showcase for science and technology and situated next to Oxford's Castle Mound, meaning the demolition of the Register Office and Macclesfield House.

In a statement, the charity said: "Restrictions limiting the use of the site and the changing costs of the development mean that delivering and funding a project that we and the city would be proud of has become increasingly difficult."

• Plans to build a £35million Magnet science centre at the Mound have been scrapped

Steve Burgess, chief executive of Science Oxford, added: "Oxfordshire is a county of world-class scientific research and innovation and it would therefore seem appropriate to aspire to create a world-class venue in which to showcase this science and entrepreneurship.

"However, no project of this size is without its challenges.

"Restrictions limiting the use of the site and the changing costs of the development since its initiation in 2008 mean that delivering and funding a project that we and the city would be proud of has become increasingly difficult."

Science Oxford had considered dropping designs for a planetarium, which had been heralded as the heart of The Magnet, after heritage groups claimed it would spoil views of the mound.

Mr Burgess added there may still be an opportunity for a planetarium.

"A planetarium would be a great asset for the county, whether that be in Oxford or further afield," he said.

"There may be an opportunity to pursue the idea of a planetarium in the future, as part of an integrated science centre, but this would need to be done in partnership with other organisations and collaborators who share the same vision as the Oxford Trust."

There could, however, be some development at the Oxford Centre for Innovation, which currently houses 25 companies and employs around 200 people.

Oxford pair meet Paddy

TWO lucky ladies from Headington got the chance to cuddle up to comedian and TV star Paddy McGuinness.

Val Neame and Hayley Walsh met Paddy at the annual Slimming World Awards at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

Hayley, who runs a Slimming World group in Headington, said: "By making small easy changes to the way our members shop, cook and eat and getting support to overcome the challenges they face along the way, they see a big difference on the scales, a big difference to the way they feel, and a big smile on their face."

Paddy added: "Before I started working in comedy I was a fitness instructor so I know how important it is to look after yourself, but equally I know it's not always easy to motivate yourself.

"So, having the help and support of people like Val and Hayley to keep you on track and be there with advice really is invaluable."

Picture: Val Neame and Hayley Walsh meet Paddy McGuinness

Oxford Journal

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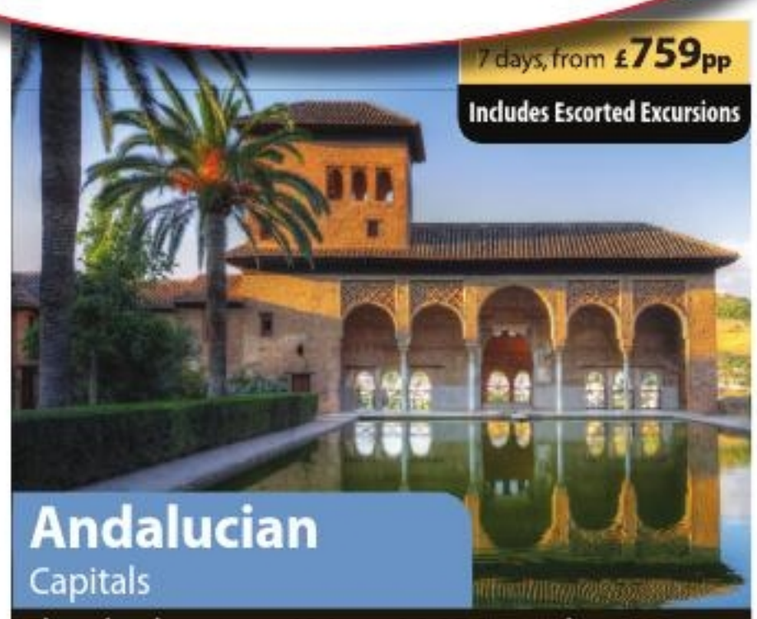

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Barcelona
and Catalonia

Departing Wednesday 14 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

From Gothic to Gaudi, the ramblas to the champlas, in Barcelona there is artistry on every street corner. We'll take you to Montserrat and the Black Madonna, Figueres and the Dali Museum, La Garriotxa with its volcanic gorges, and eleventh century Besalú with its Jewish quarter. All this, and you've still got time to stroll on the beach at Calella on the Costa Brava, visit a wine cava, and the markets at La Boqueria, or just relax in 4-star style.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Barcelona††
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- 7 nights stay in 4 star Hotel Les Palmeres, Calella with dinner & breakfast
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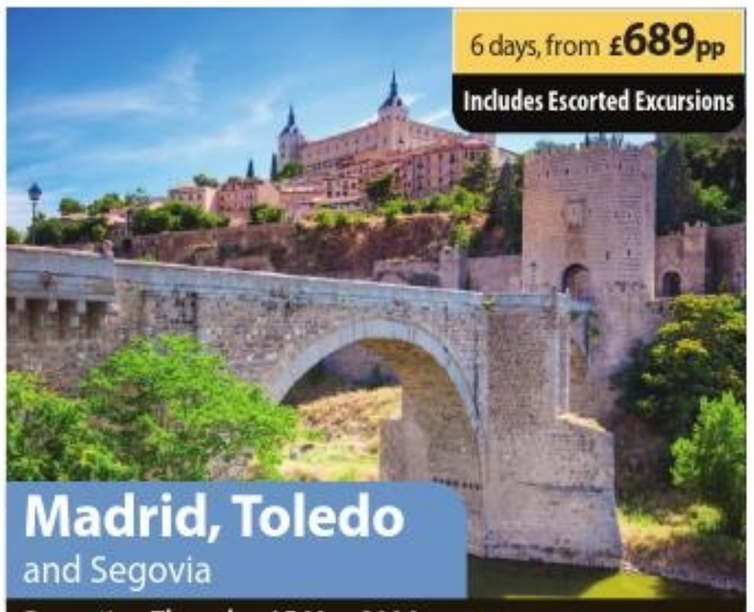

Madrid, Toledo
and Segovia

Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

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- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
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- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

††† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

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Taking the show to the Max

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

FOUR-PIECE rock group Max Raptor return to Oxford on Wednesday, following the release of their latest album 'Mother's Ruin'.

Made up of vocalist Wil Ray, bass guitarist Matt Stevenson, guitar player Ben Winnington and drummer Pete Reisner, the group have been performing together since 2006, previously appearing at Oxfordshire's Truck Festival last year.

They have toured extensively in recent years with acts including Billy Talent, The Darkness and Dinosaur Pile Up, and will playing a mix of new songs and classic tunes at their upcoming show.

"We're playing a new set, some songs off the album we haven't played which should be quite cool," said Matt.

"The thing is we can't make it too different because we haven't played in Oxford for a while, so it's going to be really nice to get back there and see what happens.

• *Max Raptor make their long-awaited return to Oxford on Wednesday*

"But it's going really well so far, and it's nice in January to get out there and play every town."

Max Raptor released their debut mini-album 'Portraits' in 2011, while 'Mother's Ruin' came out last year.

Matt added: "The reaction to it has been really positive.

"We were of the mindset that we didn't want to change too much, we were really happy with Portraits working with Dan Weller, who's such a great producer.

"That's why we went back to Dan because our sound has evolved a little bit, but I think working with Dan, who is a good friend of ours, there was synergy between the two albums.

"That came across really well, and the fans have picked up on that but it's still very much a Max Raptor album."

Wednesday's show takes place at the O2 Academy, and doors open at 7pm. For more information, call 0844 477 2000 or go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk.

Feeling groovy

BLUES group Brothers Groove perform in Oxford on Monday, as part of a Haven Club gig at The Bullingdon on Cowley Road.

Shaun Hill, Nigel Mellor, Deano and Wayne Proctor are on stage at 8.30pm, and tickets cost £8. Go to www.havenclub.co.uk.

The story of the 2011 riots

A MULTIMEDIA show created as a response to the riots of August 2011 is staged at the North Wall Theatre tonight, telling the heartbreaking, surprising and challenging stories of that year.

Written and performed by Bernadette Russell and Gareth Brierley, 366 Days of Kindness is part storytelling, part stand-up and part live documentary.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £13. Go to www.thenorthwall.com or call 01865 319450 to book.

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All going wrong

WEST End smash hit comedy The Play That Goes Wrong comes to the Oxford Playhouse from Monday, following the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society's attempts to stage a 1920s murder mystery.

As they try to stage the play, however, everything goes wrong, but the actors battle on to get their final curtain call.

Eight shows are scheduled up until February 1, and tickets start from £21.50. To book, call 01865 305305 or go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com.

Let's improvise

SIXTEEN performers take up an improvisation challenge at the Pegasus Theatre today and next Thursday, in Whose Crown Is It Anyway?

The performers have been on an intense training course, where their spontaneous responses in the two shows will earn them points with the highest scorer being rewarded.

Both shows begin at 8pm, and it costs £8 to enter. Booking details can be found at www.pegasustheatre.org.uk or by calling 01865 812150.

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Oxford's own Eden project

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OXFORD'S Old Fire Station's first art exhibition of the year is underway, featuring the work of studio artist Jack Eden.

Jack has divided up the gallery into an x axis and a y axis, which he has used as a way of calculating and understanding the architecture of the space.

One axis separates the floor space into two, while the second, that measures the height of the gallery, acts as an architectural pillar and a totemic industrial sculpture.

His artwork focuses on the dialogue between sculptural material and the simplicity of geometric forms, and looks at how one can affect the other.

Speaking about his exhibition, Jack said: "I'm really excited about this show for lots of reasons.

"Having spent so much time working at the Old Fire Station, it's great to be able to show my work in a space I feel so comfortable in.

"I feel like I've had a lot of time to consider the space and develop this idea with the sort of freedom rarely afforded to someone who's so recently graduated.

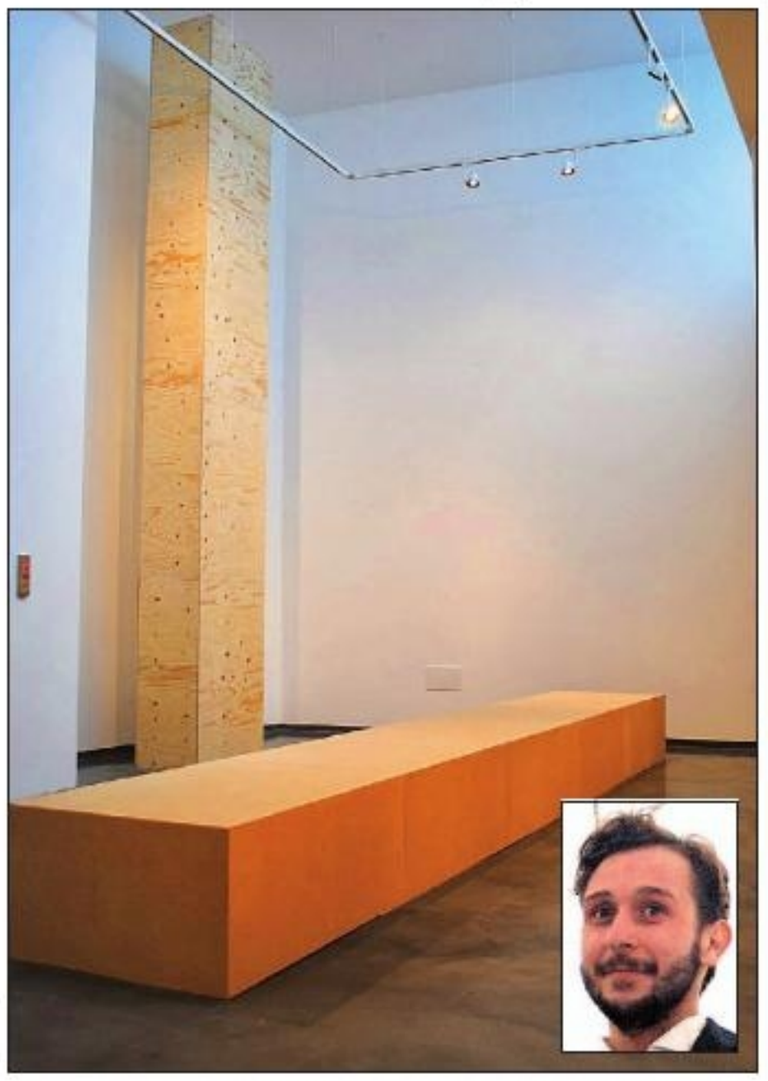
"I'm also really looking forward to exploiting the gallery's height – no one's really taken full advantage of the height, so I'm glad to be the first!"

Gallery manager Emily Marston said: "Jack's work is completely different from what we had at the end of last year so it's great to see such a contrast that takes full advantage of the gallery space.

"It is also wonderful to be able to give an artist we've worked with for so long the opportunity to exhibit and develop their practice."

The exhibition is running now until February 15, with Jack giving a talk about his work on Saturday at 2pm.

For more details, go to www.oldfirestation.org.uk or phone 01865 263980.



• *The Old Fire Station is set up for the exhibition and (inset) Jack Eden*

Comedy tribute

RECREATING some of the finest moments from Morecambe and Wise, Eric and Little Ern come to the Didcot Cornerstone on Saturday.

The show is performed by Ian Ashpitel and Jonty Stephens, who recreate classic television and stage moments as well as using their own material.

Tickets cost £17.50, and the show starts at 8pm. More details are available at www.cornerstone-arts.org, or by phoning 01235 515144.

Marvellous!

HENLEY College are staging 'A Marvellous Night' tonight, which sees over 30 students perform a special concert named after Van Morrison's 'Moondance', which the Big Band will be playing.

It takes place at the Kenton Theatre from 7.30pm, and all tickets cost £5. More information can be found at www.kentontheatre.co.uk.

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Over to the Darkside...

PINK Floyd tribute band Darkside are at the Chipping Norton Theatre on Saturday, covering a broad range of classic songs from the early Syd Barrett music to the more iconic anthems.

Songs include 'Dark Side of the Moon', 'Animals', and 'Wish You Were Here', and is accompanied with a laser light show.

It starts at 7.45pm, and costs £15.

To book, phone 01608 642350 or go to www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

Guns 2 Roses

A TRIBUTE act to Guns N Roses, said to be the biggest of its kind for the group, performs at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre tomorrow evening.

Guns 2 Roses have played to thousands of fans across the world, and are supported in this show by young rock quintet Voodoo Vegas.

Tickets cost £16, and begins at 8pm. Go to www.themillartscentre.co.uk or call 01295 297002 to book.

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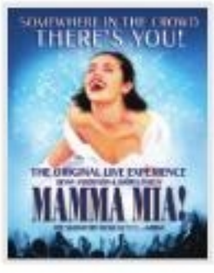
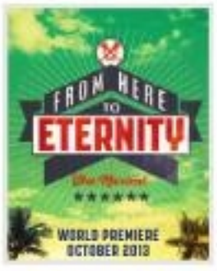
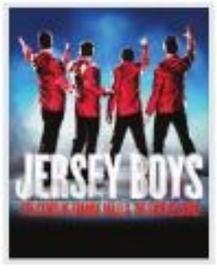
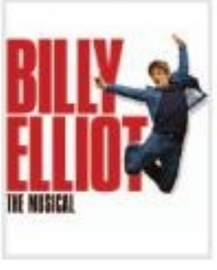
London Theatre Breaks

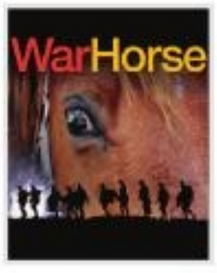
Make your own way

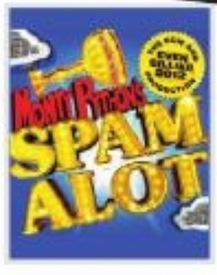












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23 January, 8pm - 9:30pm
The North Wall, Oxford
366 DAYS OF KINDNESS
Part storytelling, part stand-up, part live documentary, featuring a dinner party with surprise guests including the Dalai Lama, Liam Neeson and Princess Diana, this show attempts to answer the question: is it possible to change the world just by being kind?
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 January, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"20.45 Gemma Moss
21.30 Barry & The Beachcombers
22.15 Molotiv Sexbomb
¬£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/250112"
www.gappytooth.com

25 January
Royal Oak Pub, Woodstock Road, Oxford
PLAYHOUSE PLAYS OUT: BURNS NIGHT
Packed with poems and music, this promises to be a joyous celebration of one of Scotland,Äôs great poets. A traditional two-course haggis lunch or dinner is also included in the ticket price.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

25 January, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
NOBODY RIDES THE UNICORN
The greedy King and cunning Doctor trick a young girl into capturing the Unicorn. Zoe must set the Unicorn free,Ä¶ But will she be putting herself in danger? Puppets, original live music and moments of unexpected magic, blend together to tell this tale, based on Adrian Mitchell,Äôs modern classic.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 January - 3 March, 10am - 6pm
Aidan Meller Gallery, 14 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AS
QUEEN VICTORIA'S ARTISTS
Celebrating the dreamy Classical qualities and 'Art for Art's Sake' works of Alma Tadema, Frederick Leighton and John Everett Millais.
01865 250 550/www.aidanmeller.com

27 January - 1 February
Oxford Playhouse
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG
Tickets: ¬£11 to ¬£26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

29 January, 7:30pm
St Margaret's Church, Oxford
MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
A story concert from the acclaimed band Casa Margarita: tales and music from Seville. Classical and folk music by De Falla, Granados, Rodrigo Lorca and others. In St. Margaret,Äôs Church. Tickets ¬£12.50/¬£10.50 from www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/
www.casa-margarita.co.uk/

31 January, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
BERNARD D'ASCOLI (PIANO)
Bernard d'Ascoli offers a delightful programme of piano works.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

31 January, 5pm
Oxford Playhouse
ALAN AYCKBOURN
Tickets: ¬£9 discounts ¬£7
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

1 February, 7:29pm - 11pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
MASH MARATHON
The annual M@SH Marathon returns, bringing its unique brand of innovative music-making to the JdP.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

1 February, 9am - 11am
Abingdon Baptist Church Hall
JUMBLE SALE AND CAKE STALL
Jumble, clothes, books, DVD's, toys, games, puzzles, bric-a-brac, home made cakes. In aid of the 30th Abingdon Scout Group funds. Ock Street, Abingdon.
01235 527828

2 February, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - JEAN MARTYN
¬£7 concessions ¬£6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

2 February
Orchard Centre, Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: VALENTINES GIFTS/ OXON VEG CYCLE SEED & BULB SWAP

3 February - 8 February
Oxford Playhouse
AYCKBOURN ENSEMBLE
Three world premieres (including his latest play Arrivals & Departures) and a major new revival. This promises to be a joyous celebration of Ayckbourn,Äôs talent and range.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

3 February - 3 March, 10am - 6pm
Aidan Meller Gallery, 105 High Street, Oxford
OXFORD THE RISE OF PARIS
Lifting the lid on the extraordinary creative power of Paris at the beginning of the 20th Century.
www.aidanmeller.com

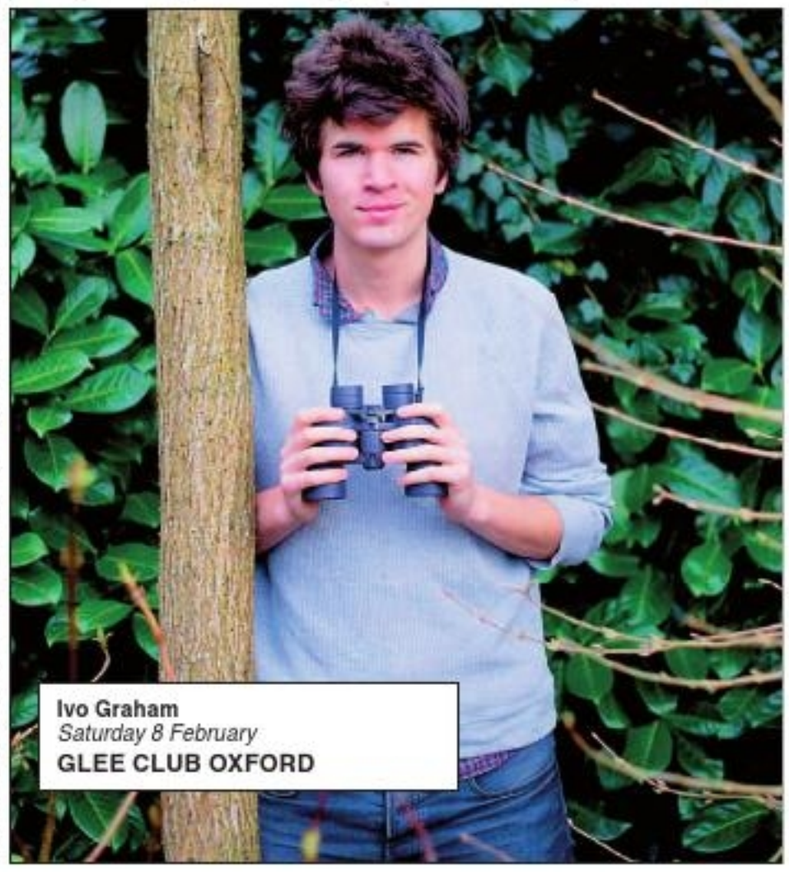
3 February - 3 March
Aidan Meller Gallery 14 Broad Street, Oxford
OXFORD - THE HIGH VICTORIAN AESTHETIC
Celebrating the dreamy Classical qualities and 'Art for Art's Sake' works of Alma Tadema, Frederick Leighton and John Everett Millais.
01865 250 550

6 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BLINK
This is the tale of Jonah and Sophie. It,Äôs a love story. A dysfunctional love story, but a love story all the same.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

7 February - 9 February, 11am - 5pm
Oxford Town Hall
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR
"The Oxford International Art Fair 7-9 February 2014, at the Oxford Town Hall.
With over 150 exhibitors from all over the world, that are specially coming over to Oxford for this wonderful 3-day Art Fair.
Giving Art Collectors and Art Enthusiast a once in a lifetime opportunity to buy directly from the artist that has travelled all the way to Oxford, making it a unique experience for both visitors and exhibitor, at the beautiful Oxford Town Hall, a jewel at the heart of the historic city of Oxford.
Fri 7th Feb: 18.00-21.00 Vernissage
Sat 8th Feb: 11.00-17.00 Free Entry
Sun 9th Feb: 11.00-15.00 Free Entry
www.oxfordinternationalartfair.com
OXFORD TOWN HALL
St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX"
www.oxfordinternationalartfair.com

8 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
CREDIBLE LIKEABLE SUPERSTAR ROLE MODEL
In an audacious, provocative protest against flagrant global attempts to sexualise and commodify childhood for profit, award-winning artist Bryony Kimmings and her niece Taylor, nine, decided to play the global tween machine at its own game by inventing dinosaur-loving, bike riding, tuna pasta-eating, alternative pop star Catherine Bennett.
Tickets: ¬£13, ¬£11 concessions
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

8 February, 5:55pm
Vue Bicester, Cineworld Didcot, The Regal Henley-on-Thames, Phoenix Picturehouse Oxford, Cineworld Witney
THE MET: LIVE IN HD
DVO≈Ô√°K: RUSALKA
Starring Ren√©e Fleming in the title role and Piotr Beczala as the handsome Prince she yearns to love, with



Ivo Graham
Saturday 8 February
GLEE CLUB OXFORD

Competitions

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Or on a postcard to Competitions, Oxford Journal, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN tickets to see The Selecter

ICONIC Ska Legends, The Selecter have announced that they will celebrate their 35th anniversary with an extensive 26-date UK tour in February, March and April 2014, performing their seminal debut album 'Too Much Pressure' in its entirety for the first time ever, and lucky reader is going to win tickets to their gig at O2 Academy in Oxford on March 9!

Released on the legendary 2-Tone label, 'Too Much Pressure' was a Top 5 selling album featuring a host of timeless classics, including 'Three Minute Hero', 'Missing Words' and course 'Too Much Pressure' - all of which were released on Top 40 charting singles.

Closing date:

Friday, February 14

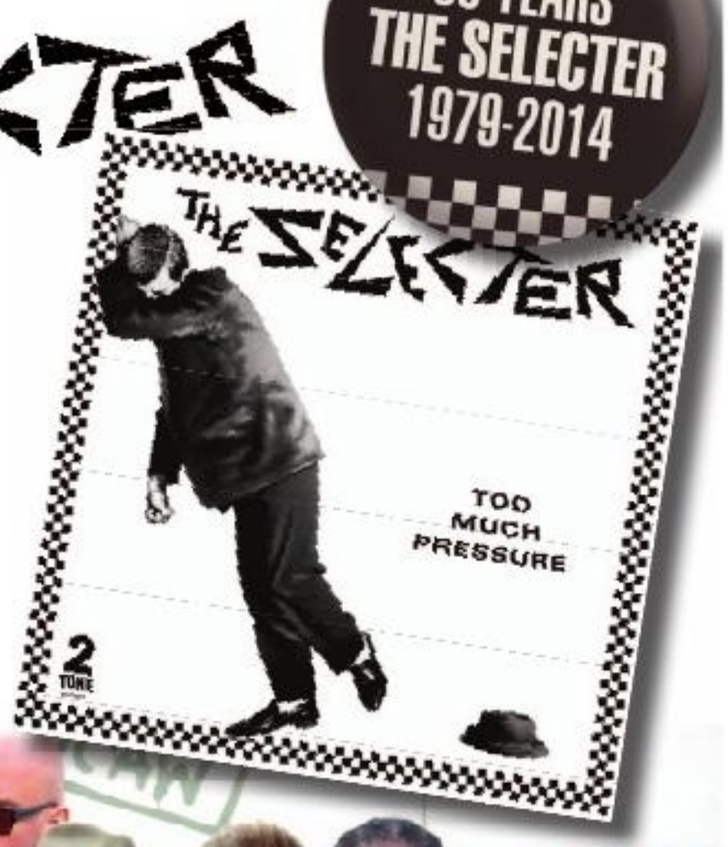
The Too Much Pressure 35th Anniversary Tour will also feature an extended encore of hits and live favorites from across The Selecter's extensive 35-year spanning back catalogue, including their debut Top 10 smash hit, 'On My Radio' right up to the this year's critically acclaimed 'String Theory'.

Pauline Black says, "We thought our 35th anniversary would be the perfect time to revisit our very first album Too Much Pressure and perform it in full...for the very first time! We can't wait to get on the road to bring our message of multiculturalism from across 4 decades to venues up and down the land. See you there!"

The past few years have seen a huge resurgence in the popularity of The Selecter, with new material being released alongside a relentless touring schedule which has taken the band play numerous gigs and festivals across Europe, undertake no less than 3 trips to the USA (including being picked as the Desert Sun's highlight of the 2013 Coachella festival) and even performing as far afield as Australia and Canada.

Still as outspoken and politically articulate as ever, The Selecter are both tied to, and very proud of, their past, to the acknowledgement of 2-Tone and all that it meant to their fans and the wider music community. To be a part of this see the Selecter all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: WHICH RECORD LABEL WAS TOO MUCH PRESSURE ORIGINALLY RELEASED ON?



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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8				6		9	2	
1	5					7	4	
			7	1		3		6
		1	6				9	
3	9		5		2		6	4
	7				4	8		
4		2		5	7			
	8	3					1	5
	6	9		2				3

1		9				6		7
	5						2	
	2		6		7		4	
		8		3		5		
	3		5		1		9	
		1		9		2		
	6		7		4		8	
	8						1	
7		4				3		5

	9				4			
5				1			3	
	2	1			8	7		
			2				7	3
		3				1		
9	6				5			
		5	8			3	6	
	4			7				2
			6				5	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Employments (11)
9 Pin (3)
10 Present (9)
11 Social rank (5)
13 Egyptian beetles (7)
14 Merchant ship (6)
16 Mendicant (6)
18 Picture to oneself (7)
19 Attain (5)
20 Treading roughly under foot (9)
21 Plan (3)
22 Commemorating festively (11)

Quick Clues Down

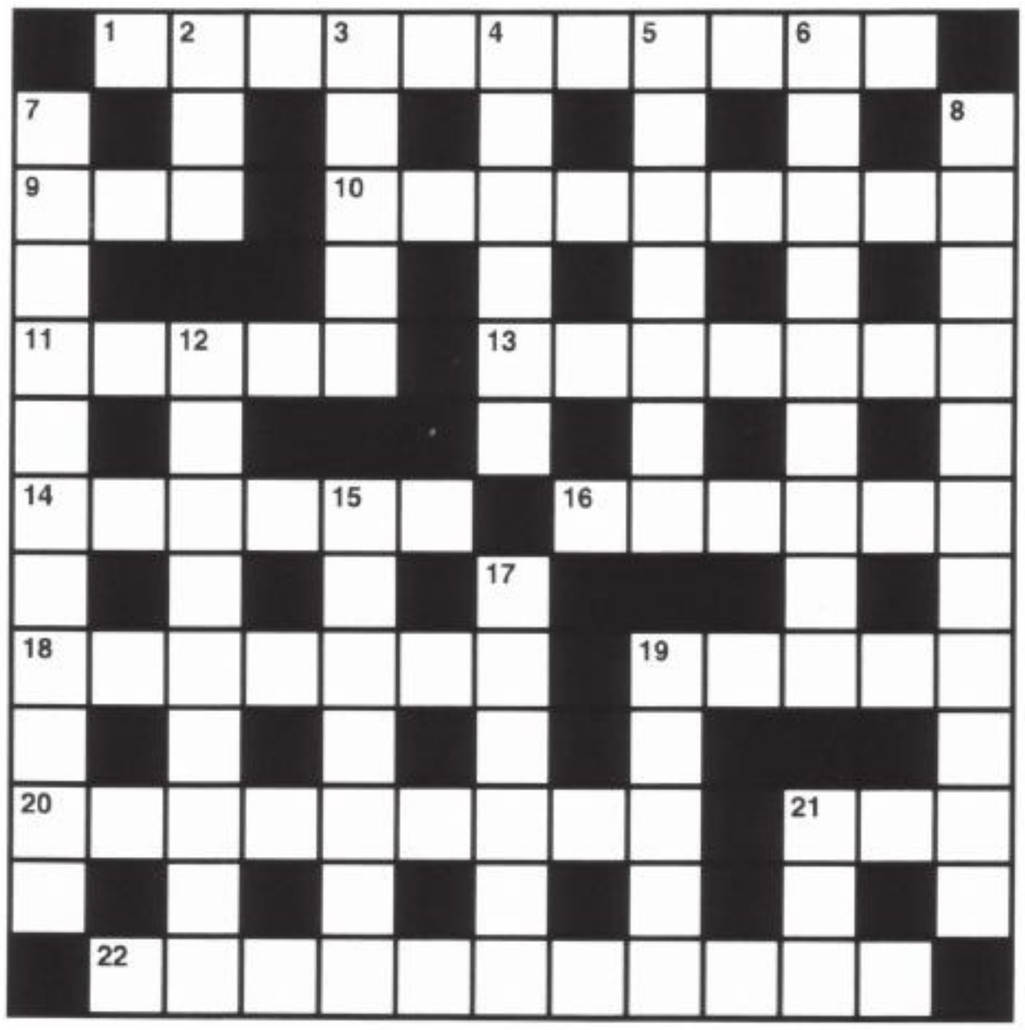
2 Tooth on wheel (3)
3 Fixed quantities (5)
4 Bear witness (6)
5 Early period of history (4,3)
6 Severe nerve pain (9)
7 Experts (11)
8 Critical literary examination (11)
12 Make worse (9)
15 Paint in dots (7)
17 Older (6)
19 Correct (5)
21 Males (3)

Cryptic Clues Across

1 His is a professional stick-up (5-6)
9 Strange drink (3)
10 Their understanding is 100% (9)
11 Force the little devil to join the Spaniard (5)
13 They are certainly absorbing (7)
14 Creatures of spirit (6)
16 Perhaps never include a point of superficial refinement (6)
18 Henry's the one for spoils (7)
19 Lightweight animal (5)
20 Scheme against the maniac maybe (9)
21 Nothing at grass? (3)
22 Declares the fool always gets a setback (11)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Am to include single purpose (3)
3 Surpass 10 and 50 by the sound of it (5)
4 Just the ones in the height (6)
5 Number one part stinks (7)
6 Will it never grow old? (9)
7 Scandal to be in tears over the disgrace (6,5)
8 They are no snakes in the grass (3-8)
12 Draws out professional leaflets (9)
15 Where the skater is on dubious ground (4,3)
17 Oriental condition of property (6)
19 Musical work period (5)
21 Gold sounds an alternative (3)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	9	1	6	7	8	2	3	5
8	3	5	2	1	9	4	7	6
2	7	6	3	5	4	8	1	9
7	2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4
6	5	8	4	2	1	7	9	3
9	1	4	5	3	7	6	2	8
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	6	7
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1
1	6	9	7	8	3	5	4	2

6	4	8	2	1	3	5	9	7
3	7	2	9	6	5	1	8	4
9	1	5	8	4	7	6	2	3
5	2	3	1	8	4	9	7	6
4	9	7	5	3	6	2	1	8
1	8	6	7	2	9	4	3	5
2	3	9	4	5	8	7	6	1
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	4	9
7	6	4	3	9	1	8	5	2

6	7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
8	1	3	5	7	4	9	2	6
5	6	4	8	9	2	1	3	7
7	9	2	3	5	1	6	4	8
3	8	1	4	6	7	2	9	5
2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6	9
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	1	4
1	3	6	9	4	5	8	7	2

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Branches 4 Crew 8 Sordid 10 Cellos 11 Medal 12 Camel 14 Repent 17 Designers 18 Anchovies 22 Cosset 23 Annul 24 Deals 26 Feared 27 Seemly 28 Lost 29 Mattered

Down: 1 Bust 2 Abroad 3 Chimes 5 Relies 6 Washtubs 7 Melee 9 Delighted 10 Carnivals 13 Means 15 Preen 16 Fanciful 18 Asians 19 Cedes 20 Insect 21 Summer 25 Dyed

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Strapped 4 Odds 8 Reigns 10 Italic 11 Chime 12 Genie 14 Prague 17 Dalliance 18 Alleviate 22 Censor 23 Event 24 Verne 26 Doused 27 Trauma 28 Gold 29 Sleepers

Down: 1 Spry 2 Raised 3 Pencil 5 Deluge 6 Sickened 7 Stern 9 Sheltered 10 Impatient 13 Nails 15 Acute 16 Watchdog 18 Annual 19 Lover 20 Averse 21 Endure 25 Mass

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PROPERTY WEEKLY

www.oxfordpropertyweekly.co.uk Established 1988 Thursday, January 23 - Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Don't miss out on this updated, five bedroom detached in Harwell - See page 15

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Unique chance for a five bedroom detached

A unique opportunity to acquire this well-appointed and substantial five bedroom detached family home which has been skilfully extended and comprehensively updated in recent times. The property benefits from its newly fitted kitchen and family bathroom plus the large barn/workshop and large garage, set within the picturesque village of Harwell giving good access to Didcot Parkway.

The property provides spacious and versatile family living accommodation throughout.

Just a few of the benefits , which consist within The Winnaway

• Detached chalet bungalow with five double bedrooms

• Impressive 22' newly fitted kitchen/dining room with integrated appliances

• Separate utility room with cloakrooom and downstairs shower room

• Gas central heating and UPVC double glazing

• Generous front and rear gardens with large barn/workshop and garage. To avoid disappointment and to booked your viewing contact Hodsons Didcot 01235 511406 www.hodsons.co.uk or e-mail didcot@hodsons.co.uk

Secure a superb new home at Great Western Park with help to buy

• An artist's impression of a typical Taylor Wimpey streetscene at the Great Western Park development in Didcot.

Leading housebuilder Taylor Wimpey is urging prospective purchasers to find out how Help to Buy could enable them to secure their ideal home at Great Western Park in Didcot, Oxfordshire, during a special event on Saturday January 25.

Savvy homebuyers can learn more about the Government's shared equity scheme by speaking to Taylor Wimpey's Sales Executives and an independent financial advisor during the event taking place at the development.

Under Help to Buy, purchasers can secure a Government loan for 20% of their new home's full price – meaning they only require a 75% loan-to-value mortgage and a 5% deposit.

Darren McCormack, Regional Sales and Marketing Director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "Help to Buy has proved to be incredibly popular with purchasers who would otherwise have struggled to save the deposit needed to secure a new home.

"This event is a fantastic opportunity for would-be buyers to find out everything they need to know about Help to Buy and we look forward to seeing them on Saturday 25th January at Great Western Park."

Help to Buy is available on new-build properties up to the value of £600,000 and there is no salary cap for homebuyers taking advantage of the scheme. There is a choice of one, two, three and four-bedroom houses and apartments available to buy now at Great Western Park.

The four-bedroom Plot 432 'Ramsbury' semi-detached home, for example, is priced £335,000 and features a spacious open-plan kitchen/dining/family room opening through French doors to the private rear garden, with a study and a guest cloakroom off the entrance hallway.

Upstairs, the first-floor landing leads to an en-suite master bedroom and a living room with French doors opening out to a private balcony, with views overlooking the boundary park. Three further bedrooms and a main bathroom can be found on the top floor, while outside, there's a garage and driveway parking. Great Western Park is conveniently located close to the vibrant town of Didcot, where homebuyers can enjoy a good selection of shops, restaurants and pubs, with all the amenities of Oxford city centre just 12 miles away.

Information on Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available by calling 01235 541900.

Attractive Faringdon family home

An attractively presented modern three bedroom family home built by Messrs Bloor Homes and situated towards the outskirts of Faringdon.

This property has a flexible arrangement of accommodation which includes, on the ground floor, an entrance hall with Cloakroom and Study/Playroom. To the rear of the property is the Kitchen/Breakfast room which has been fitted with a range of floor and wall mounted units and plumbing for a washing machine and dishwasher, in addition to an integrated electric oven with four-ring gas hob and extractor over. There is ample space for a dining table and French doors open onto the rear garden.

On the first floor is a Sitting room, Cloakroom and a Double Bedroom. The Master Bedroom is situated on the second floor and boasts an en suite Shower room. There is also on this floor a further Bedroom and Family Bathroom fitted with a WC, wash basin and bath with shower over.

Outside, the property has a small flower bed to the front and an enclosed and attractive landscaped garden lying to the rear, which is laid to lawn with paved patio and a pedestrian gate giving access to a Parking space and the single Garage. There is also space to park one vehicle immediately to the front of the garage.

The property benefits from UPVC double glazing throughout, with a gas heating system to radiators.

Early internal viewing of this spacious home is highly recommended.

Energy Rating: Rated B

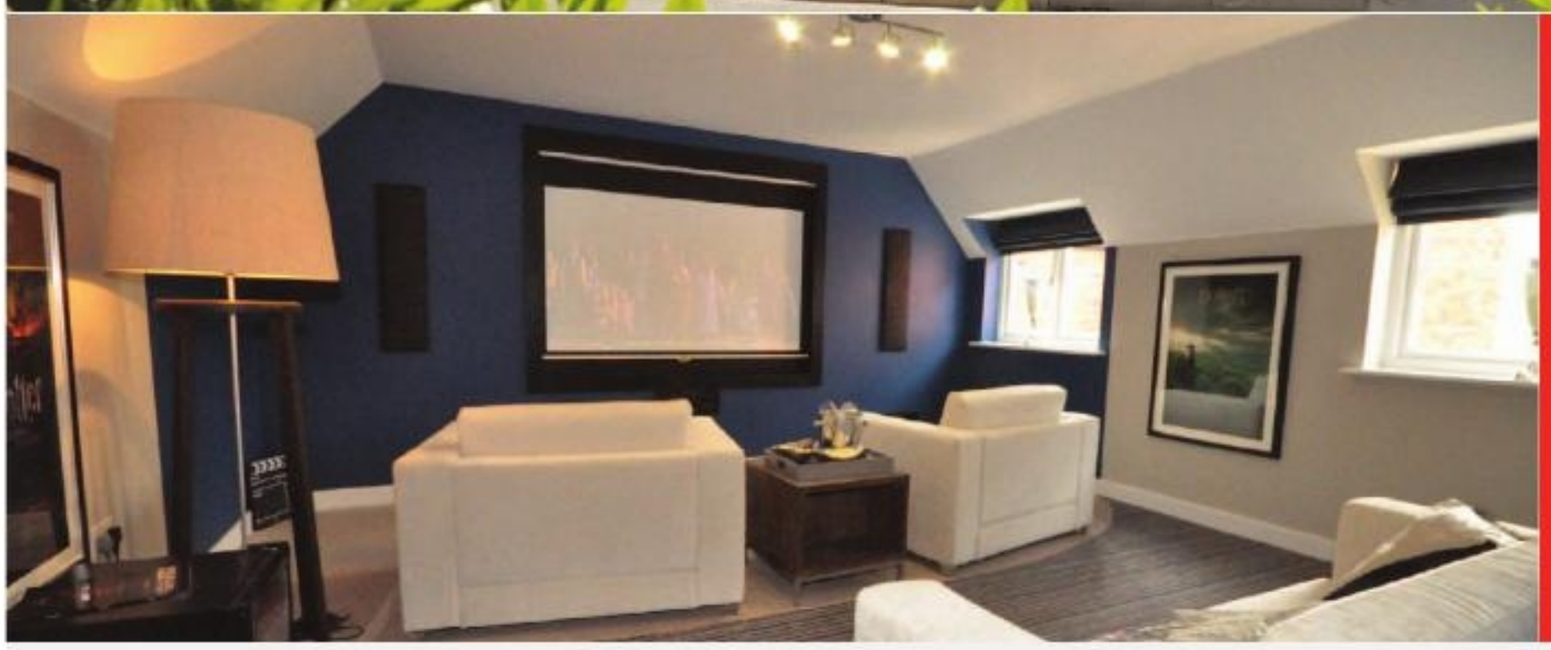
Price: £240,000

Perry Bishop and Chambers, Faringdon Office – 01367 240367

www.perrybishop.co.uk

A stylish 4 bedroom home with 'room over garage' in Faringdon.

A typical Denfield detached design at Folly Park View.



Turn your 'room over garage' into a home cinema, gym, office or whatever suits your lifestyle.

The Denfield (plot 421) is an outstanding example of a carefully planned family home. It features:

- Spacious lounge • Garden room
- Open plan kitchen/breakfast room with built-in appliances
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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Secure a superb new home at Great Western Park with Help to Buy

LEADING HOUSEBUILDER TAYLOR WIMPEY IS URGING PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS TO FIND OUT HOW HELP TO BUY COULD ENABLE THEM TO SECURE THEIR IDEAL HOME AT GREAT WESTERN PARK IN DIDCOT, OXFORDSHIRE, DURING A SPECIAL EVENT ON SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY.

Savvy homebuyers can learn more about the government scheme by speaking to Taylor Wimpey's Sales Executives and an independent financial advisor during the event taking place at the development.

Under Help to Buy, purchasers can secure a government loan for 20% of their new home's full price – meaning they only require a 75% loan-to-value mortgage and a 5% deposit.

Darren McCormack, Regional Sales and Marketing Director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "Help to Buy has proved to be incredibly popular with purchasers who would otherwise have struggled to save the deposit needed to secure a new home. This event is a fantastic opportunity for would-be buyers to find out everything they need to know about Help to Buy, and we look forward to seeing them on Saturday 25th January at Great Western Park."

Help to Buy is available on new build properties up to the value of £600,000 and there is no salary cap for homebuyers taking advantage of the scheme.

There is a choice of one, two, three and four bedroom houses and apartments available to buy now at Great Western Park, with prices starting at just £162,000.

Great Western Park is conveniently located close to the vibrant town of Didcot, where homebuyers can enjoy a good selection of shops, restaurants and pubs, with all the amenities of Oxford city centre just 12 miles away.

Commuters will enjoy easy access to the A34, which leads to the M4 and M40, while Didcot Parkway railway station offers regular services to London Paddington, with a journey time of around 40 minutes.

Homehunters who want to find out more about Help to Buy can come along to the special event on Saturday 25th January between 10am and 5pm at the sales information centre, located off the A4130, Sir Frank Williams Avenue, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 6AB.

Alternatively, the development is open daily from 10am to 5pm (Mondays 1pm to 5pm), and the Sales Executive can be contacted on **01235 420736.**

Taylor Wimpey

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Great Western Park is a stunning development of 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes ideally located on the outskirts of Didcot, with plenty of amenities and excellent transport links right on your doorstep.

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New Fiat 500L Trekking boasts a more rugged dimension

It's a great multi-tasker

BUILDING on the success of the recently launched 500L small MPV, Fiat has now added this Trekking variant to the range.

This model's beefed up bumpers, lower-body cladding and raised ground clearance adds a more rugged crossover look.

The 500L has already been awarded a five-star safety rating by Euro NCAP, but the 500LTrekking is the first Fiat to feature City Brake Control (a low speed collision avoidance system) as standard.

There are four engine options: 1.4-litre Fire petrol and the 875cc TwinAir Turbo, plus the 1.3 (with manual and automatic transmissions) and 1.6-litre MultiJet 2 turbo diesel.

REVIEW: Fiat 500L Trekking

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

For a £700 premium over the normal 500L, Trekking spec is based on the standard car's Lounge trim, but adds 17" alloy wheels and tinted rear windows.

Highlights include a panoramic glass roof, air-conditioning, cruise control, and the company's new UConnect touch-screen infotainment system.

There's attractive bespoke seating, covered in a mesh effect material, combined with faux-leather inserts. Unfortunately the seat bases are a bit short and lack lower lumber and lateral support - meaning that some drivers may not be able to get as comfortable as they'd like.

Rear passengers get ample legroom, although headroom is only average.

Ergonomically the dashboard scores well, with clear and intuitive controls and stand out design features include an aircraft-style parking brake lever. There's no shortage of storage places, thanks to 22 compartments of different sizes dotted around the cabin.

A 400 litre boot incorporating 'Cargo magic Space' allows the boot to be split into separate sections and a flat load area, combined with an easily collapsible 'Fold&Tumble' rear seat, and folding front seat will ensure that 2.4m long loads can be carried.

The combination of excellent visibility and light but direct steering makes it an absolute breeze to thread the 500L Trekking around town.

Even on faster A and B roads the Fiat feels at home, thanks to its wieldy nature and composed body control.

Trekking can also venture off the beaten track, thanks to standard mud and snow tyres and its Traction+ electronic traction control system, which simulates the behaviour of a locking electromechanical differential.

Downsides include a fair bit of road and wind noise at motorway speeds and a firm ride at all speeds.

However, this firmness is well controlled and never deteriorates into harshness or discomfort.

The 104 bhp 1.6-litre diesel proves a sweet unit, being surprisingly smooth and also eager enough, thanks to the 236lb ft of torque on tap at 1750 rpm. The gear change has a chunky yet positive action and the clutch uptake is smooth.

• *The new Fiat 500L Trekking*

VERDICT:

Fiat's funky compact MPV is a great multi-tasker; with the space and practicality to cope admirably with family duties, while also being desirable to own and fun to drive.

This new Trekking model adds a more rugged element to the 500L, and allows it to be as adept at negotiating a bumpy country lane or slippery dirt track, as it is threading through the urban sprawl.

Facts at a glance

Price: £19,590
0-62mph: 12.0sec
Top speed: 109mph
Fuel economy: 60.1mpg
CO2: 122g/km
Engine: 4 cyls, 1598cc, turbodiesel
Gearbox: 6spd manual
Power: 104bhp at 3700rpm
Torque: 320 Nm at 1750rpm

MEET THE EXTENDED FAMILY

FIAT 500L MPW
• 7 seats‡
• 632 litre boot^

FIAT 500L
• 5 seats
• 400 litre boot^
• 22 storage compartments

FIAT 500L TREKKING
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• Bold bumpers & side mouldings

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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO_2 emissions in Europe†. Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 70.6 (4.0). CO_2 emissions 149 – 105 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. ^The Fiat 500L and Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. ‡Based on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.65m. *The 0% APR HP offer is based on 36% customer deposit and 3 Year Term. Fiat Deposit Contribution of £500 is payable in addition to the 36% customer deposit. Deposit Contribution available across the Fiat 500L range and is only available in conjunction with Fiat Hire Purchase Low Cost and Fiat I-Deal Low Cost. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. January to March 2014 offer, valid from the 3rd January 2014. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Fiat Financial Services. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume weighted average CO_2 emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, full year 2012.

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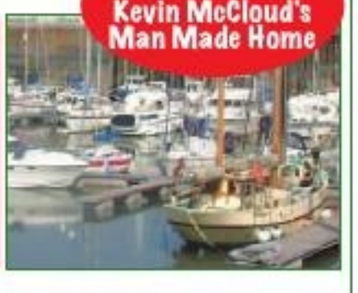

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Wilder wants another striker as Oxford suffer FA Cup exit to Addicks

U'S BOSS IS HOPEFUL ON NEW FACES

OXFORD United boss Chris Wilder says he is hopeful of bringing in at least one new face ahead of Saturday's home game against Torquay United.

United have made two additions in the January transfer window so far with midfielder Nicky Wroe and goalkeeper Jonathan Henly arriving on loan, but Wilder is looking to bring in a forward over the next few days.

Ryan Williams (back) Dave Kitson (ankle) and Alfie Potter (ankle) all missed United's FA Cup third round replay defeat at home to Charlton Atheltic on Tuesday, while Wilder feels there needs to be more competition for places higher up the pitch.

When asked whether he was looking to bring anyone in this week, Wilder said: "Hopefully

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

yeah, I'm pushing.

"Hopefully we can make a decision because I think we need it.

"We've got Alfie hopefully coming back, he's not far down the line, but I think we need the competition in the squad. We've got good competition in midfield with Josh Ruffels and Danny Rose and Johnny Mullins, who has played in there as a three and can do a job as a two, and Nicky Wroe has come in to the team.

"We've got Ryan Williams coming back in to the team on Saturday which will give us a spark, but certainly we need a little bit and we're looking at the top of the pitch."

Oxford United	**0**
Charlton Athletic	**3**

Ruffels was singled out as the one positive from United's 3-0 defeat to Charlton on Tuesday night with Wilder paying credit to the 20-year-old's attitude.

He said: "Josh Ruffels was outstanding.

"You don't take many positives from defeats but I thought he led the way and showed a lot of the players how to do it.

"When he got it he passed it and kept it and when he didn't he went and tried to get it back, he made good decisions all night and I think we didn't really do that as a team generally.

"It's only really Danny's form that has kept Josh out the side and he is possibly one of the only ones who is really putting pressure on the players in the team and we possibly need a little bit more of that."

United are seventh in League Two ahead of Saturday's game and Wilder is expected to make at least three changes with Rose, Wroe, who was ineligible during midweek, and Williams set to return.

• Josh Ruffels impressed during Oxford United's 3-0 defeat to Chartlon Athletic (Picture by Steve Daniels)

Burnell delighted as 'spirited' Exiles rally to victory

JUSTIN Burnell hailed London Welsh's spirit after the Exiles overturned a 15-point deficit to beat London Scottish 21-18 in the B&I Cup.

However, the win did not prevent Welsh from going out of the B&I Cup at the group stage, finishing third in Pool 2.

Pontypridd topped the group on points scored from second-placed Scottish while the Exiles were only a point behind, 20 ahead of Edbinburgh Accies who failed to register.

Despite going out, Welsh have now recorded three wins in a row and Burnell was delighted with the comeback victory last weekend.

"At 18-3 it wasn't looking good but the spirit never went from us," he said. Just before Christmas against Bedford and London Scottish we just seemed to lack that bit of spirit, but (on Saturday) it was there.

"The bench once again made a difference for us. I'm very pleased with the win."

The Exiles return to Green King IPA Championship action this Sunday when they face third placed Leeds Carnegie.

City beaten by United

OXFORD City were dealt a blow in their battle to avoid Skrill North relegation on Tuesday night, with visiting North Ferriby United claiming taking all three points away from Court Place Farm.

A brace from Jamie Cook was not enough for Mike Ford's side as they slipped to a 3-2 defeat.

City face a tricky trip to mid-table Leamington on Saturday as they look to get back to winning ways.

Ford's men are currently third from bottom in the table, with 23 points from 23 games.

Gloucester (20 from 24) and Workington (14 from 25) are the only two sides currently below them.

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